GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015
Coastal Shipping between India and Bangladesh
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the Coastal Shipping between India and Bangladesh to carry out coastal movement of goods between the two countries;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the advantage likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes to develop an alternative route for the transportation of cargo between the two countries; and
(e) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a)to(c):Yes, Madam. India has signed a bilateral Coastal Shipping Agreement with Bangladesh. The important features of the Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh include:

(i) The movement of cargo would be through River Sea Vessel (RSV) or equivalent class vessels.
(ii) India and Bangladesh would give same treatment to the vessels of the other country as it would give to its own domestic vessels with respect to port dues and other charges.
(iii) The Agreement only includes merchant vessels and excludes warships, research vessels, fishing vessels etc.
Under the coastal shipping agreement, the movement of cargo would be through RSV or equivalent category of vessels. These vessels have lower technical and manning standards compared to foreign going vessels and are more cost effective without compromising on the safety of the vessel. The use of RSV class vessel would reduce the cost of transportation of cargo between the two countries.

(d)&(e):The opening of coastal route between India and Bangladesh is expected to provide an alternative route for transportation of EXIM cargo as well as transit cargo to the North Eastern parts of India.

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